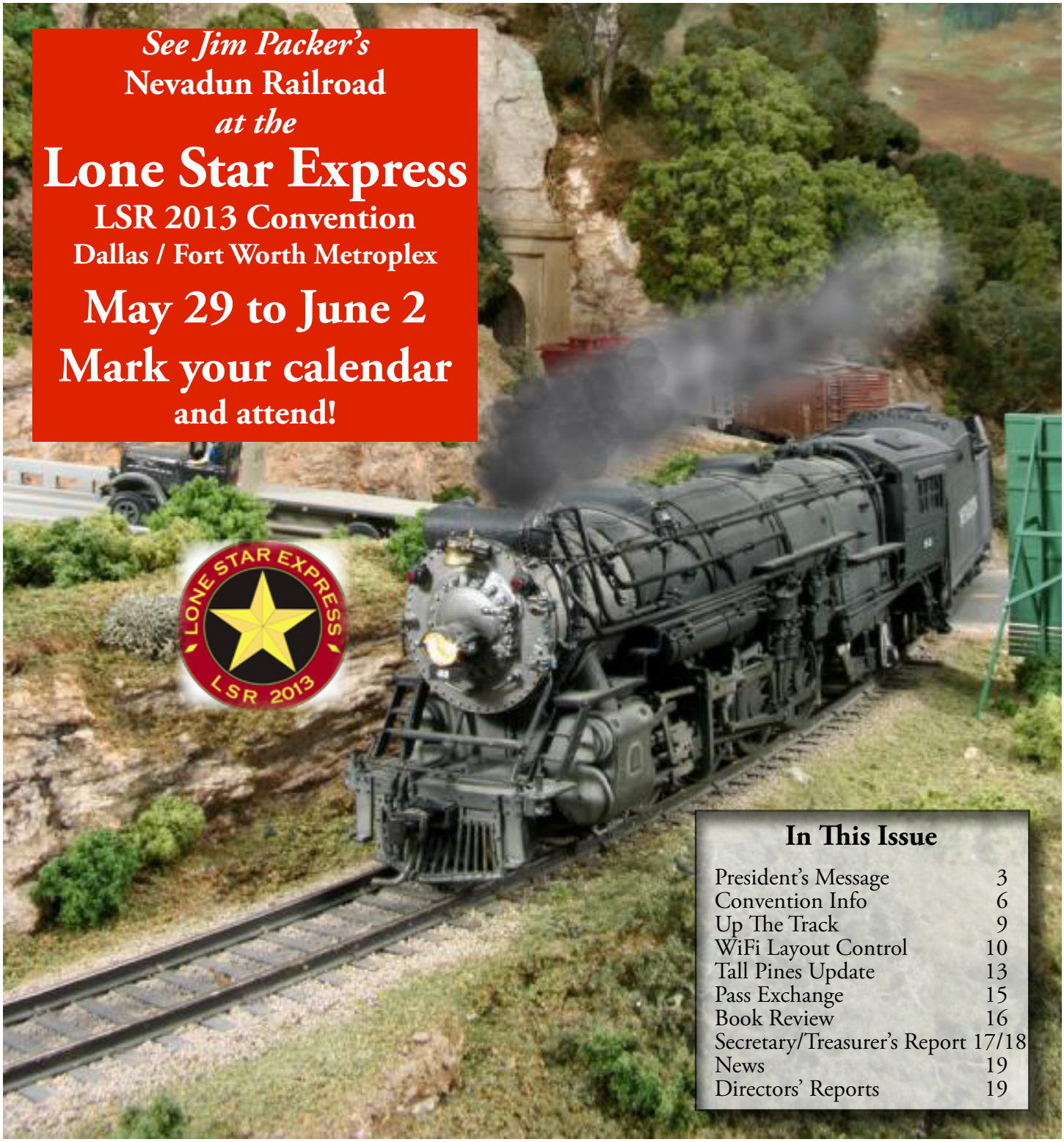
The Marker Lamp

Volume 59 Number 2 Spring 2013



In This Issue

President's Message	3
Convention Info	6
Up The Track	9
WiFi Layout Control	10
Tall Pines Update	13
Pass Exchange	15
Book Review	16
Secretary/Treasurer's Report	17/18
News	19
Directors' Reports	19

The Marker Lamp

The Official Publication of
The Lone Star Region of the
National Model Railroad Association

Volume 59, Number 2

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The editorial policy of The Marker Lamp, the official publication of The Lone Star Region, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility. The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of The Lone Star Region of The National Model Railroad Association. Articles appearing in The Marker Lamp are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of The Lone Star Region or The National Model Railroad Association. Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, selfaddressed envelope is provided. Correspondence relating to Pike Ads, Dealer Ads, Address Changes and requests for extra copies should be addressed to

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President's Message

by Bill McPherson

"According to the National NMRA headquarters, this may be a new record for enrollment for the entire NMRA in such a short period of time."

Times change, but do they?

Once upon a time in my childhood, streetcars were all over the Dallas area, my home town. Together with buses, streetcars could get you to just about anywhere you needed to go. By the early 50s streetcars had disappeared, much to the happiness of many who had to creep along behind a streetcar traveling at 5 miles an hour down the middle of the street and stopping at almost every intersection. But as I said, times do change. Streetcars are returning to many Dallas streets, including crossing the Trinity River and are being touted as the new way to travel.

So, also, things do change in the Lone Star Region. My term as LSR President is rapidly drawing to a close due to being limited to two terms. The new LSR president will be Steve Barkley, an attorney in Beaumont, who will take over during the New Business portion of the Annual LSR Board of Directors meeting on June 2. My terms as President have been interesting rides with some significant things happening.

Foremost is that the Lone Star Region is currently very engaged in the extremely important areas of energizing present members, recruiting new members, and increasingly involving everyone in all aspects of railroading. Our membership has bounced back to a new current high of 1,240 with many divisions enrolling numerous new members. For example, at several train shows and meetings from October to March in the Cowcatcher Division 1 (Fort Worth and westward area) and the Trinity River Division 3 (Dallas and near-by East Texas area), 120 new railroaders have joined the LSR. According to the National NMRA headquarters, this may be a new record for enrollment for the *entire NMRA* in such a short period of time.

This is the direct results of the intensive work of many LSR volunteers, organized by Larry Swigert, LSR Membership Chairman and Cheerleader Extraordinary, at the booths and meetings spreading the word that a person's model railroading experiences can be dramatically enhanced by the learning opportunities and fellowships which come from a NMRA/LSR membership. Then at the regular division meetings, from 50 to 80 people are attending. As with most things, a person tends to get out of an activity what they put into it. However, very often the efforts of the current LSR members are the critical elements which make this happen for the prospective or new members.

Second, the LSR is again getting back into a better financial situation. Our Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Browning reported last November that he had made the first deposit to our primary Vanguard CD investment account for the first time since he became Treasurer in 2009. The first significant contributing factor for this was the very successful Houston Convention in 2012. Thanks to the diligent efforts of Chairman Bob Barnett and his convention team, they kept their costs down very low which resulted in an excellent net profit from the modest attendance.

This convention split a net profit of $6,425 between the Texas Gulf Coast Division 8 and the LSR. Plus, they kept 100 percent of the income from their raffle and merchandise sales. The complete LSR 2012 Convention Report will be reviewed at the Annual Board Meeting on June 2. Yes, putting on a convention is a tremendous task accomplished by many people working many months. Fortunately, its rewards can be impressive both in pride and monetarily.

The second significant contributing factor to our improved financial condition is the saving of over $5,200 annually to print and mail *The Marker Lamp*. While the printed version had been so informative and beneficial for over 50 years, it had become almost 95 percent of our annual expenses. In recent years when the interest income from our Vanguard CD investment account has dropped to almost nothing and income from conventions has declined also, we just could not continue to sustain this loss and remain solvent. So many magazines and newspapers have gone out of business recently even though they were charging subscription fees.

Fortunately, the on-line publication of the *Marker Lamp* enables us to have many more articles, full-color photographs

or drawings, and less work for our new editor Riley Triggs. Chuck Lind, the editor of the *Marker Lamp* for the previous twelve years, did an excellent job in developing this publication and moving mountains to get it out on time every time. We also thank John and Karin Cobb at Minuteman Press, our printers for the last eight years, who have done so much for the LSR.

Tom Browning's Secretary and Treasurer report, which appears elsewhere in this *Marker Lamp*, shows the LSR's net worth at $34,116.23 as of January 31, 2013. Our new fiscal 2013-2014 budget period began on April 1, 2013.

Because of the aforementioned savings from the on-line publication and the excellent profit from the Houston convention, our new projection for the FY2013-14 net worth will be $39,274 compared to the previous forecast of $28,268.

"Some members have questioned: "why does the LSR need all that money"?

The LSR Vanguard CD investment account I mentioned earlier has a similar importance to the LSR as your personal savings account and other assets have to establishing your personal net worth. Some members have questioned: "why does the LSR need all that money"? This is what our credit worthiness is based upon when we "guarantee" to pay a $20,000 bill to a convention hotel should the host group be unable to do so. Without the financial backing provided by the LSR, a host group would not be able to negotiate much more than a cash-in-advance convention contract. Several other NMRA regions have almost $100,000 in the bank which is very fortunate for them. Per our By-Laws our LSR net worth is capped at $40,000.

I have been so very fortunate to have had Tom Browning as Secretary-Treasurer during my administration. It is very infrequent that two individuals think and believe so similarly on so many things as Tom and I do. We both have strong financial and detailed-oriented backgrounds which have served us well in our administration. We knew each other in another world of computers, and after a decade discovered that we both had long interests in model railroading. I profusely thank Tom Browning for all of his efforts for me and for the Lone Star Region.

Marc LeChey, Larry Swigert and many others are creating an amazing LSR 2013 convention in the Dallas, Fort Worth and Frisco areas from May 29 to June 2. Take a look at the convention web site at lonestarexpress2013.com to be bedazzled by the multitude of activities awaiting you and your family.

Bill's home road, the Dallas Belt & Terminal

Finally, there are many others in the LSR who have given me their wonderful friendship and support over the years. Loren Neufeld, Eunice Linda, Jim Packer, and Virginia Freitag have provided substantially useful information and council about the LSR in the years past. Tom Crosthwait was instrumental in helping to revise the antiquated LSR Convention Report along standard business accounting procedures. Many of the Directors and Committee Chairpersons were of tremendous assistance. A whole trainload of thanks is being shipped to each of you.

I'm looking forward to seeing you down the tracks.

Bill McPherson

Paul Dolkos looks on making sure I don't blow the transfer run to the docks on his new layout set in Baltimore Harbor. Photo by Gerard Fitzgerald

On the Road

By Riley Triggs

Greetings from Virginia. I'm finishing up this month's *ML* right after a visit to Paul Dolkos' newly rebuilt layout. He traded in the Boston and Maine in New England for the Western Maryland in Baltimore Harbor recently, and the new experiences and learning have been great fun for him. Even though he had a world class and world famous layout, he realized that to keep his interest and to keep growing as a modeler, he needed to go into unfamiliar territory and try something new. Not unlike what we are doing here with the *Marker Lamp*.

With this second issue of the electronic version of the publication there is actually not much to report. I have heard of only a couple of grumblings secondhand about the digital only format, but now the transformation is old news, and we are looking at how we are going to shape the future of the publication and no longer debating if the future is going to happen. With this, there is opportunity to go into unfamiliar territory and try something new. Not unlike what Paul is doing with his Baltimore Harbor layout.

Some things about this issue that point to the future and new possibilities. First, we have more color photos (nice!) with several in the Division Reports (cool!), an update from Chuck Lind on the new layout he started after also tearing down an amazing old one (takes guts!), a story about WiFi controlled layouts with a companion video (super high-speed!), and a new department for book reviews (needs contributors!).

So I would say that the *ML* is definitely on the road to a bright future. Even though the trip is underway, there is still ample opportunity to help shape the future by simply dropping me an email and letting me know what you think ought to happen, what might happen and what you want not to happen.

As always, I am needing content as well, so don't be bashful: write up something, take a few (color) pictures and send it my way. Not only is it fun and rewarding, but others benefit from your efforts, and we are all better for it.

By taking time to participate this way, the future you change may be your own!

Riley

rileytriggs@gmail.com

P.S. I didn't blow the transfer run...

LONE STAR EXPRESS

2013 Lone Star Regional Convention
Dallas/Fort Worth May 29th-June 2nd
http://lonestarexpress2013.com

Your 2013 Convention Committee has been working diligently to deliver some great new places for you to visit during the 62nd Annual NMRA LSR Convention, "The Lone Star Express"to be held May 29 - June 2 in Dallas/ Fort Worth. One tour site has already been confirmed, with several other new locations still yet to be finalized.

As you can imagine these days, Homeland Security concerns as well as premise liability considerations are major barriers to having tour groups visit major transportation sites. But with our man Larry Swigert hard at work, we just might have some prototype tour visits available for you that have never been open before ! Check back often for updates and some exciting news regarding these fantastic prototype tours.

Meanwhile, here is a little sneak peak at what is awaiting you when you arrive on Thursday..…

Prototype Tour #1: Museum of the American Railroad

On Thursday afternoon, the "Museum of the American Railroad" will be your host for personal tours of one of the most complete collections of railroad equipment, artifacts, and archival material in the country.

In his presentation at the 2009 NMRA LSR Convention four years ago, Museum President and CEO, Bob LaPrelle broke the news to us of the move and major expansion of the museum from its 1.8-acre home on the grounds of Fair Park in Dallas to a new 12.5-acre site near the Frisco Heritage Museum. Your visit on Thursday will give you a chance to see the beginnings of this great new facility and will include small, personalized group tours, hosted for you by volunteers from the Museum.

Please note: We expect the Museum grounds to still be very much a work in progress during your visit. You should arrive for this magnificent hands-on, up-close tour with closed toe comfortable walking shoes for traversing unleveled terrain and be dressed for the outdoors with appropriate protection such as hats and sun screen.

This Frisco Opening Day treat will be something totally new to LSR Conventions. You sure don't want to miss this!

Prototype Tour #2: BNSF Operations Center

And if you ever wondered just how they operate a major railroad, join us as the BNSF opens up their Corporate Headquarters for this next tour.

For starts, we will see four immaculately restored vintage BNSF business cars, the BNSF historical museum, and their incredible art gallery.

Then, the" big show"…. The Network Operations Center, where we are ushered behind the scene and get to watch as BNSF dispatches nearly the entire railroad from one, football field size room in the Corporate Headquarters! A truly AMAZING sight!

Prototype Tour #3: Union Pacific Hump Yard

Those who act FAST will have the rare opportunity to visit the Union Pacific's Fort Worth Hump Yard and Diesel Facility! This will be one of the most talked about tours at the 2013 Lone Star Express! Attendees must wear long pants; hard rubber soled shoes (steel toe preferable) and must strictly adhere to UP Safety rules for this visit. There will be no "wandering around" just to get that photo that you've always wanted. We have committed to our UP hosts that our group is knowledgeable of the safety hazards that go with a commercial rail operation and further that we all understand that any deviation from UP Safety rules will cause the tour to be stopped immediately.

In order to comply with UP Safety considerations, this tour will be limited to the first 24 folks to register. There will be no standby list for this tour, so register now!

Keep checking back for progress on what could be the highlights of your 62nd Annual NMRA LSR Convention, "The 2013 Lone Star Express."

See ya'll soon! You're gonna' have fun!

LONE STAR REGION NMRA
LONE STAR EXPRESS 2013
MAY 29-JUNE 2, 2013

WWW.LONESTAREXPRESS2013.COM
*Mail Registration by May 18 or Register Online using **PayPal***
See Instructions at bottom of Page 2

NAME: As Shown on NMRA Membership Card:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Email Address:
Print Clearly Please:

Home Phone: Cell Phone:

NMRA Member No.: NMRA Exp Date (mm/dd/yy):

Home Division: Home Region (if not LSR):

NOTE: All registration fees increase by $10 after April 15

A. PRIMARY REGISTRANT Named above and current NMRA Member $79 prior to April 15, 2013. (See page 2 for NMRA membership registration fees if not a current NMRA member)

Name for badge _____

B. ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE/CHILD $59 when submitted with Primary Registrant paperwork by April 15, 2013

Name for badge _____

Name for badge _____

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel
4440 W. John Carpenter Freeway
Irving, Texas 75063-2927
Tel: 1-972-929-8400 or 1-800-345-5251

Ask for the 2013 Lone Star Region Convention rate

The convention rate is $96.00 per night for1 King, or 2 Double bed occupancy. Make your reservations directly by phone with the Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel (between 8am-5pm M-F if possible). ***NOTE: The convention rate is available between May 26 and June 4 only if booked no later than 5pm CST, May 15, 2013.***

REGISTRATION INCLUDES

- ⊗ ***Includes** Saturday evening Awards Banquet and Sunday morning Breakfast*
- ⊗ ***Learn** from the best modelers in the area with **52 clinics** from which to choose*
- ⊗ ***View and photograph** some of the best model building from the Lone Star Region in the Contest Room*
- ⊗ ***NEW! Practice operating your layout** in the Convention Layout Room*
- ⊗ ***Hear guest speaker**, **Allen C. Harper**, Chairman and CEO of American Heritage Railways, during the Saturday evening Awards Banquet*
- ⊗ ***Choose** from among six different Operating Sessions*
- ⊗ ***Plenty of Non Rail Activities:** Tours, contests, clinics and fellowship*

Lone Star 2013 Convention Fee Schedule (rev 21513)

REGULAR REGISTRATION	COST	QTY	Total
Postmarked on or before April 15, 2013	$79		$
Postmarked after April 15, 2013	$89		$
ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE/CHILD REGISTRATION (*CHILDREN UNDER 6 FREE*)			
Postmarked on or before April 15, 2013	$59		$
Postmarked after April 15, 2013	$69		$
EXTRA FARE			
Prototype Tour #1 **Museum of the American Railroad** (*drive yourself*)	$10		$
Prototype Tour #2- **BNSF** Headquarters-Fort Worth	$20		$
Prototype Tour #3-**Union Pacific** Hump Yard-Fort Worth	$35		$
Leave the Driving to Us Layout "Super Tour-Dallas"	$30		$
Leave the Driving to Us Layout "Super Tour-Fort Worth"	$30		$
Make and Take Clinic-Laser Cut Structures-(circle scale) N HO S O	$25		$
Make and Take Clinic-Fast Tracks Jig	$20		$
*Commemorative Decal Set (circle scale) N HO S O	$10		$
Operating Session Deposit Wed Evening (Refunded at Op Session)	$10		$
Operating Session Deposit Thurs morning (Refunded at Op Session)	$10		$
Operating Session Deposit Thurs evening (Refunded at Op Session)	$10		$
Operating Session Deposit Fri morning (Refunded at Op Session)	$10		$
Operating Session Deposit Fri evening (Refunded at Op Session)	$10		$
Operating Session Deposit Sat morning (Refunded at Op Session)	$10		$
Additional Tickets-Saturday Evening Banquet *(Children under 6 must have a ticket to attend the banquet)*	$35		$
Additional Tickets-Sunday Morning Breakfast *(Children under 6 must have a ticket to attend the breakfast)*	$20		$
Circle Choice for Banquet Meal. Provide count if more than one registrant using this form: *Beef Stroganoff (Number?)* *Chicken Chardonnay (Number?)* *Italian Stuffed Pork Loin (Number?)*			
*Unisex Convention Polo Shirt-**Red** (circle size) S M L XL XXL	$30		$
*Men's/Women's Button Down -**Red** (circle sex/size) S M L XL XXL	$30		$
* Black Ball Cap with Convention logo	$10		$
**Decal sets and shirts must be pre-ordered by April 15th*			
NON-RAIL TOURS			
Ft. Worth Botanical Garden-includes Admission- (Lunch on your own)	$25		$
Delaney Vineyard-wine tasting & cheese tray	$36		$
MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS, ETC			
One Year NMRA/LSR Membership with NMRA Magazine	$66		$
NMRA Rail Pass- 6 Month Trial Membership with NMRA Magazine	$9.95		$
**Facility Usage if not staying at the hotel (see below)	$25		$
Grand Total			$

**Note: The $25 facilities Usage Charge (primary registration only) applies to those who do not stay at their own home or at the convention hotel. The cost of the hotel's meeting rooms, banquet, and other facilities is offset by the attendees (locals as well as out-of-towners) purchasing the guaranteed number of hotel room nights. If this guaranteed number is not met, the use of the facilities will significantly increase the cost of the convention. Since every attendee benefits from the use of the hotel facilities, we encourage everyone to stay at the convention hotel.

Primary Registrant Name:

Make check payable to "**Lone Star Region NMRA** "
Mail completed form and payment no later than May 18th to:
Chris Atkins, Registrar
1633 Parkside Trail, Lewisville, TX 75077
469-438-0741
chris@railroadmodelers.com ***Or go to*** www.lonestarexpress2013.com and register using ***PayPal***

Up The Track

By Bill Dryden

Here are upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me, or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA Scale Rails and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via e-mail at bdr149@airmail.net. Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

Lone Star Region 62nd Annual Convention (2013)
The Lone Star Region NMRA 62nd Annual Convention will be held in Irving, May 29–June 2, 2013.
Check the LSR website http://www.lonestarregion.com/convention.shtml Come all!! PARTICIPATE!!!

RECURRING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

LSR Division 3 - Northeast Texas Division - Garland
Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin St., Garland, TX. Third Saturday of each month. For more information contact Jerry Hoverson at jhoverson@tx.rr.com or check the Division 3 Page on the LSR website

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers - San Antonio
The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

Houston Area Live Steamers -Houston
HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Peter Bryan at peterb@pdq.net for more information.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs - Irving
The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the third Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or member clubs.

EVENTS AND SHOWS

May

May 18 – 19th **ALL ABOA-A-A-RD for Second Annual Jefferson Train Days** 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Saturday, May 18, 2013, and 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Sunday, May 19, 2013
One $15 Boarding Pass admits visitors to four activities – R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad layout, Historic Jefferson Railway scenic train, Jay Gould's private railroad car and a train show. Jefferson Historical Society & Museum, Jefferson Historical Society & Museum, 223 West Austin Street, Jefferson, Texas 75657 jeffersonmuseum.com and www.JeffersonRailway.com 903-665-2775

May 29th – June 2nd **Lone Star Express – Lone Star Region/ NMRA 62nd Annual Convention.** Sheraton Grand DFW, 4440 W. John W. Carpenter Frwy, Irving, TX. For more information, call (214) 507-7779 or visit http://www.lonestarexpress.com

July

July 14th – 20th **NMRA National Convention – Peach Tree Express 2013.** Atlanta, GA. For more information: http://nmra2013.org/

July 27th – 28th 2013 **SAMRA 11th Summer Show.** Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $7.00, Children 16 and under when accompanied by a paying adult. Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Road, Live Oak, TX. For more information: http://samratx.org/.

October

October 12th – 13th **31st LMRA Model Train Show.** Lockheed Martin Recreational Association, Fort Worth, TX. For more information www.lmra.org (go to Model Railroads)

November

November 16th – 17th **5th Annual Fall Train Show.** Sat. 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $7 (18 – up), Children $2 (5 - 17). New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 S. Castell Ave., New Braunfels, TX. For more information call Jim Edmondson (830) 629-2071 or JEdmondson@satx.rr.com

Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the *Marker Lamp* is the middle of the following month.

Locomotive throttle control using an Android tablet

WiFi and Model Railroads

We've come a long way, Baby!

Text and photos by Arthur Houston

WiFi (wireless local area computer networking) is commonly used to connect computers and mobile devices to the Internet and to each other in our everyday lives. There have been many advances in wireless speed and connectivity recently, and coupled with the introduction of handheld computing devices and specialized applications, the average model railroader can now take advantage of both for the operation of locomotives and other DCC controled devices on the layout.

Why would you want to employ a WiFi control system?

There are many advantages to using digital throttles. One advantage is that you can have many more throttles at less expense, since many people already have handheld computing devices. Secondly, you can have remote control panels without the need to physically build and wire them, and you can use the schematic that you probably have already created on your computer screen. Even if you are currently operating with conventional radio throttles, adding a wireless system is separate from your existing radio throttles so there are no compatibility concerns or complications.

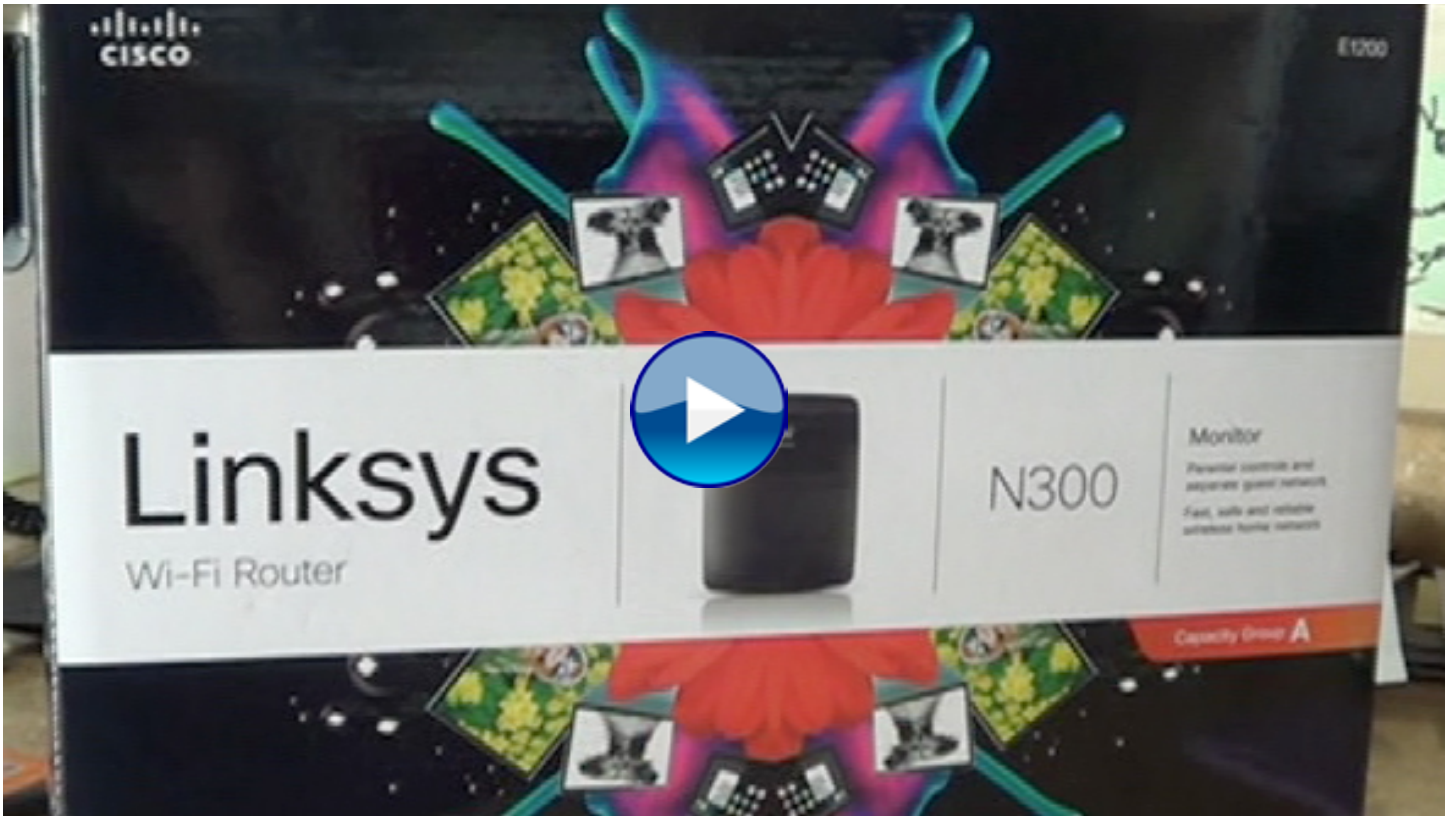
I predict that most clubs and large layouts who already operate will be interested in wifi control soon, and for these types of layouts, I recommend a stand alone network be installed just for the railroad.

How can WiFi enhance your model railroad experience?

Both my home layout and the Mid South Model Railroad Club in Baton Rouge, La. have wifi control capability

For more convenient throttles, use your iPhone or Android phone.

Click this image for video link!



Click this image for video link!

Click this image for video link!

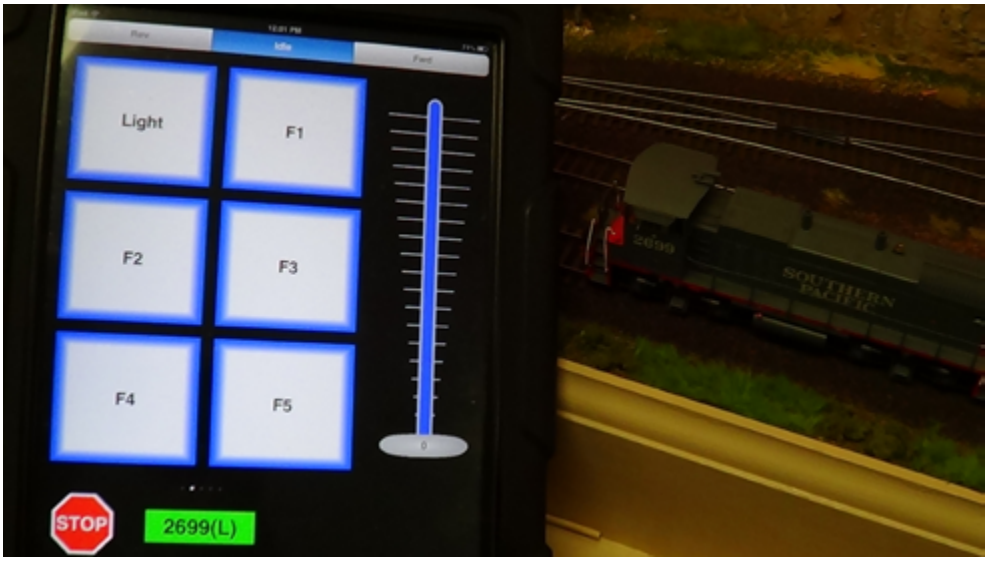
For a very detailed account of how you can connect your railroad to a wireless control system, see the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEVdKubk-wk

now, and it works great for my purposes. I have conducted operating sessions with a 10" tablet that allows me to be a walk-around dispatcher, and one could use tablets as control panels in fixed positions so that your operators can control switches. I am currently testing the different features of these systems, and the options are always expanding.

So how do you do it!?

First, you will need to have the command station of your DCC system connected to your computer by either a loconet buffer or other serial communications protocol depending on your system. There are even devices now that use a standard USB cable for easy connections. Next, you will need a free computer program called JMRI version 3.2+, that can be downloaded from http://www.jmri.org/download/index.shtm as well as Java 6.1 or higher on your computer. JMRI is a development of dedicated volunteers, and they are constantly updated and adding features to this already extensive DCC utility and control software.

When you have completed the connection and your computer and command station are talking to each other, you can start WiThrottle from the TOOLS section of JMRI and start the process of making the connection between your remote device and command station. At this point, you can actually control locomotives with your computer through JMRI.

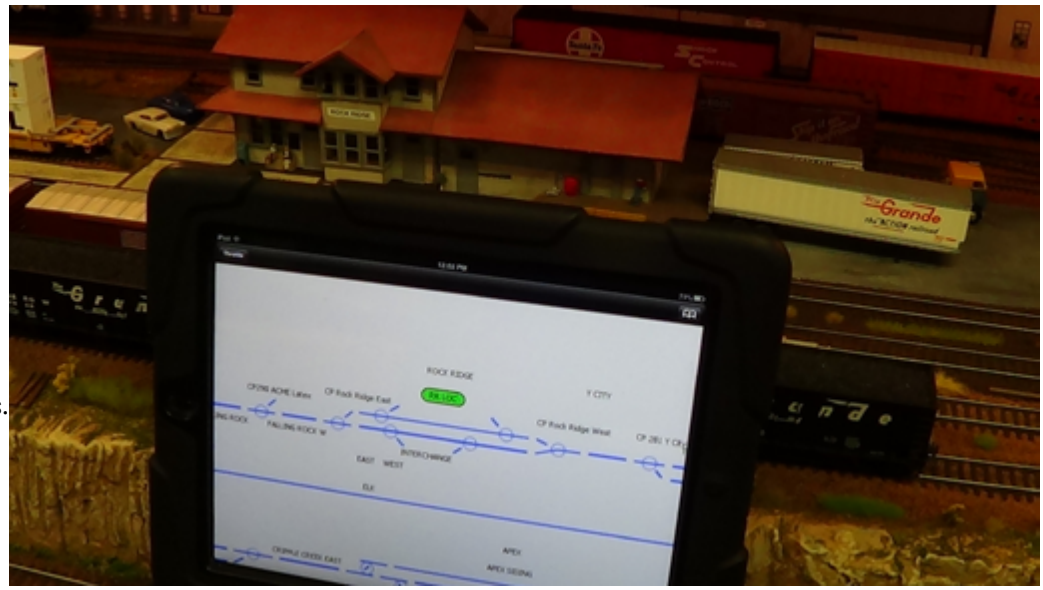


Contolling a locomotive is easy with an iPad version of the WiThrottle

Next you will need to install either one of two apps onto your device determined by the device you plan on using. For iOS devices (iPhone and iPad) install WiThrottle or WiThrottle Lite free version from the iTunes Store. If you are going to create and use control panels from your device,

then you will need the full version of WiThrottle for $9.99 as the lite version allows you to control only locomotives.

For 3g and 4g Android phones and tablets, you will need an app called Engine Driver. This is part of the JMRI package, and it is a fully-featured and functional complete application. Engine Driver can be found at http://enginedriver.rrclubs.org/

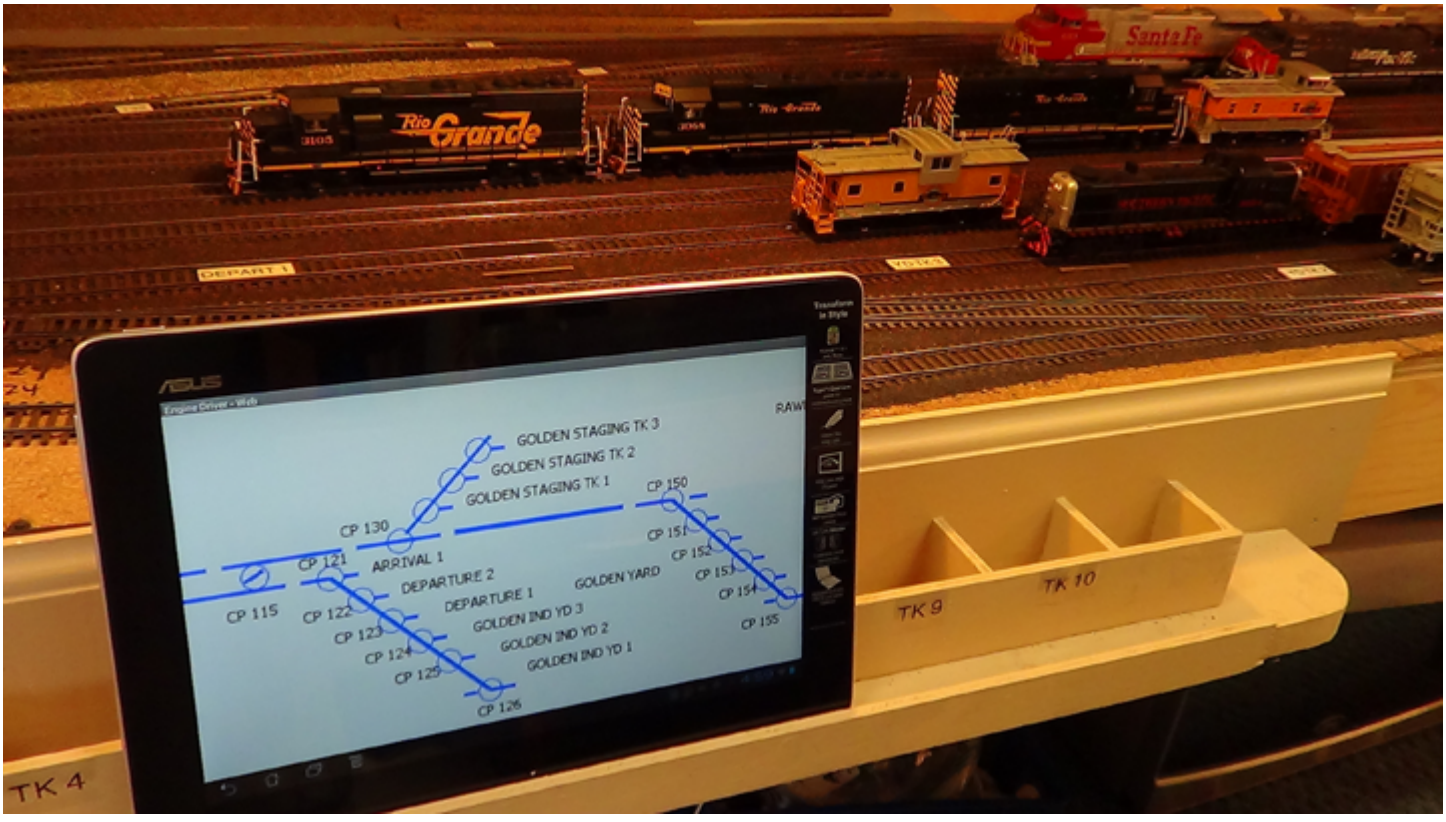


The iPad version of the control panel

I have produced a video to cover all aspects for getting started on a WiFi system to control your own layout. One thing I mention about the auto rotate feature in the video has already been fixed to a degree by Engine Driver. More work is needed, but this is an indication of the speed at which bugs are fixed and features are being added to these already very useful applications.

Conclusion

It really is exciting that you can now run your trains with your smartphone or tablet! If you have a WiFi network in your train room that is either a stand alone system or part of your home network, you are well on your way to running trains with a device other than the throttle that comes with your command station. It really is a straightforward process to wirelessly control your layout.



A tablet control panel allows enormous freedom of movement for the yardmaster. No more saying "excuse me, excuse me" during busy operating sessions or open houses because you can control turnouts from anywhere in the room!

Moving rails at the dismantling event on the old layout

Tall Pines Railroad Update

By Chuck Lind Photos by Bob Were

Chuck Lind is full steam ahead on the construction of his new layout. This month he provides a quick update on his progress in words and photos. If you would like to share what you have been up to on your home or club layout, we would like to help you! Please drop me an email at rileytriggs@gmail.com with your text and photos, and we will publish them in the next ML. *–rt*

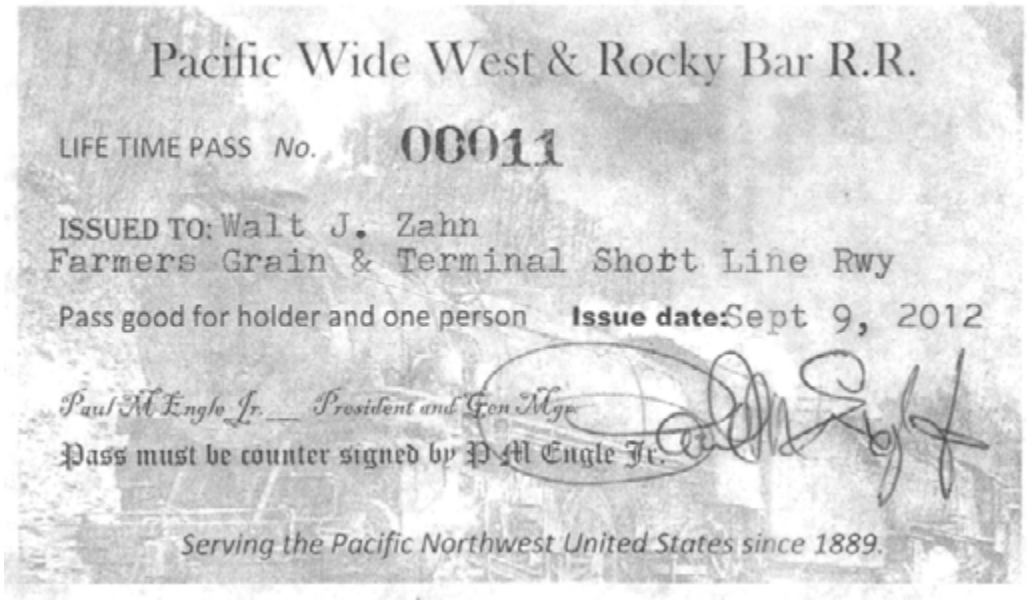
The Tall Pine Lumber Company had its golden spike ceremony last month, with the completing of the upper level narrow gauge loop and the standard gauge loop on the lower level. The old layout was taken down last March after we sold our home in College Station. The track was cut and rails loaded on flat cars *(photo above)* getting ready to move to new timber.

About 48 people gathered for the golden spike ceremony *(photos page 14)* and a BBQ dinner.

The present layout was started mid-April 2012 after we completed constructing the building for the railroad.

Golden spike ceremony with about 48 important people present...

... and several other smaller dignitaries!


Pacific Wide West & Rocky Bar R.R.
LIFE TIME PASS No. 00011
ISSUED TO: Walt J. Zahn
Farmers Grain & Terminal Shott Line Rwy
Pass good for holder and one person Issue date: Sept 9, 2012
Paul M Engle Jr. President and Gen Mgr
Pass must be counter signed by P M Engle Jr.
Serving the Pacific Northwest United States since 1889.

This quarter's pass is printed on quality stock and is from the *Pacific Wide West & Rocky Bar R.R.* submitted by Paul Engle of 45 Mountain Ash Drive, Sagle, ID 83860-9465.

Pass Exchange

Headed by Walter Zahn

The Pass Exchange Program is yet another fun way to connect to other model railroaders through printed ephemera you have created. Railroad passes were distributed by railroads to their employees, associates and partners as well as employees of other railroads for courtesy travel on their system. Many modelers recreate this tradition by printing and distributing passes for their own railways as a way to extend and share their modeling efforts.

Here's how it works

Walter Zahn continues to spearhead the Pass Exchange Program for the LSR. To participate in the program, send Walter two of your passes, and in return you will receive a pass and a list of active pass exchangers. Walter will review the passes he receives and share one in each issue of *ML*.

Send passes and any questions or inquiries to:

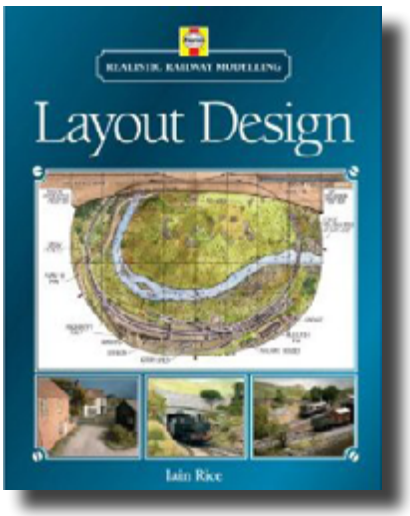
Walter Zahn
3309 Point East Drive
Mesquite, Texas 75150-2645

Book Review

By Riley Triggs

Layout Design

Iain Rice



Rice, Iain. Layout Design, Realistic Railway Modelling.
Sparkford, Yeovil, Somerset: Haynes, 2010.
ISBN 978 1 84425 635 8
Size: 8.3 x 0.6 x 10.6 inches

The first book in a new series by J H Haynes & Co, Ltd, Realistic Railway Modeling, is Layout Design (2010) which is as much a slice of philosophy as it is a hobby guide book. Written by prolific British author Iain Rice, the tone and flow of this book is informal and smart, and it promotes a particular approach to modeling that is informed by the author's artistic schooling.

This 176 page hardback retails for $34.95/£25.00 and is presented in a clean, color-coded scheme with sans serif typeface that moves from overall philosophy and approach to the hobby through "Boring Bits" and the "Things You Can't Ignore" chapters to the heart of Rice's argument in the "Visual Design and Presentation" chapter. Only after all these have been rightfully considered along with prototype research, logistics and operational considerations does he address the actual plan for your layout. He notes in his "Preliminaries" chapter that the track plan has traditionally been held as "the only blueprint needed to build a model railway."

Not so, as Rice argues for a more complete and holistic method of design that resolves all issues of the layout from the perspective of finished product. He puts forth that design considerations must involve viewing perspectives, operational desires, visual harmony and proportion as well as the nuts and bolts of the construction. The artistic elements are where he places emphasis, and the rest of the pieces are supporting cast to achieve his goal of a realistic model railway - including the track plan. The effect of the layout as a whole is the prime motivator.

I could not agree more with Mr Rice about designing holistically. Too many times I have consulted with clients and friends over track plans. Too many times I have tried to get them to think in these holistic terms, only to be humored for a few minutes before turning back to the track plan as the central organizing principle of a layout. It was Mies van der Rohe (noted German architect) who promoted the primacy of the plan as a generator for good architecture, but he was after a different overall effect than a model railroader.

Mies was organizing space to be experienced from within. Adjacencies, relationships, proportionality and materiality were key ingredients for the experience of an inhabitant. While all of these ingredients are also key in the development of a model railroad, the viewpoint of the experience is almost completely exterior to the space itself. It is much more akin to a painting or sculpture than a work of architecture. The arrangement of ingredients must be thought of in terms of the gaze and not the experience of being in a three dimensional space. So in model railroading, the track plan must be considered an ingredient, too, and not the primary organizing element. The better method of organizing space in a model railroad must be in something more like the perspectival vignette sketch that allows for the understanding of the visual relationships of the different elements in the layout.

It is not surprising, then, that Rice's main graphic tool for developing and communicating his layout designs is the perspective sketch. His signature sketches - usually rendered in color - allow him to consider the placement of buildings, roads, landscape, backscene, and tracks as an entire composition for a holistic design approach.

In the "Visual Design and Presentation" chapter, he shows that this sketching method for designing affords consideration of proportion, composition, viewing angles, scene division and visual balance. It is also a way to test out "sizes, mass and scale of objects and their placement in the scene." He suggests some basic techniques for this such as using the Golden Mean (or Golden Section) to find the appropriate boundary areas for locating things. All of this is to support his main goal, which he sets out in the introduction: to create a believable and realistic ambiance of a prototype railway.

Throughout the book, Rice includes many great devices for framing how one should think about layout creation by setting of parameters. His first parameter is to set a general approach of "compromise and deception" to achieve the desired ambiance. Then, in order to create this ambiance, one must nail down underlying motivations to arrive at a guiding mission statement with which to evaluate all decisions. Using this approach, a layout practically designs itself - all you have to do is figure out the constraints and goals you have, then stick to them throughout all the rest of the decisions!

He explicitly addresses this in the chapter "Rationales, Lists and Logistics". He suggests using lists to help organize your thoughts and prioritize desires. Ironically, one of the few things I find missing from the book is a list of things to do while designing a layout as a way of condensing the whole book into an actionable guide for the reader. I would suggest making this list for oneself, starting with why you are even building a layout to begin with.

I very much enjoyed reading Mr Rice's overall look at designing a layout. It is an easy read and well illustrated, presented and produced, and I'm looking forward to seeing more

of this series. This is a great book, especially for the beginner who is wondering what model railway building is all about. As an intermediate or advanced layout designer, this can help clarify what you may already do, but give you more control over the process.

What I am left with is the interesting contrast in approach to modeling between Rice and many of the mainstream American model railroading authors. This is something that may be worth exploring in the near future.

Youth Program Membership

By Bob Mangrum, MMR

The Youth Membership Program is an excellent way for the members of the LSR to bring new and young members into the NMRA and to become involved in what is truly the "world's greatest hobby.

This is the stated objective of the Youth Membership Program as found in Article VI of the LSR By-laws. The program is designed to sponsor up to nine young people with one year memberships in the NMRA. The total number is determined as one nominee for each division and one nominated by the elected officers and directors at large.

These nominees can originate from nominations by individuals who are members of the various divisions, clubs that are located within the divisions, and/or the division director. The proper form and a short sketch explaining why the candidate should be considered, including comments about the young person's interests and activities in model railroading comprise the application. Please refer to the by-laws for more details. If you have questions, please contact me by e-mail at: rmangrum6@hotmail.com Looking forward to announcing nine awardees for 2013!

Treasurer's Report

For Third Fiscal Quarter of 2012/2013

by Tom Browning, MMR

For the Third Fiscal Quarter of 2012/2013

Beginning Balance 11/01/2012		
LSR Checking Account		$911.18
Vanguard CD Fund		$19,870.92
Vanguard Convention Fund		$10,001.71
Acct receivable for 2013 Convention	$1,000.00	
Total LSR Net Worth	**$31,783.81**	
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth		
Funds Held For Division 1 $3,400.50		
Funds Held For Division 3 $1,566.89		
Funds Held For Division 4 $3,754.29		
Funds Held For Zahn Donation $400.00*		
LSR Proceeds		
Vanguard CD Fund Interest		$1.27
Vanguard Convention Fund Interest	$0.59	
Pike Ads	$64.00	
Convention 2012 Proceeds	$3,697.67	
Total Proceeds	**$3,763.53**	
LSR Disbursements		
Marker Lamp Printing and Postage	$1,228.63	
Membership & Promotion	$202.48	
Total Disbursements	**$1,431.11**	
2013 Convention Loan $1,000.00**		
2014 Convention Loan		$500.00**
Net Proceeds/ Disbursements	$2,332.42	
Ending Balance 01/31/2013		
LSR Checking Accounts Total		$1,261.52
Vanguard CD Fund		$20,352.41
Vanguard Convention Fund		$10,002.30
Acct receivable for 2013 Convention	$2,000.00	
Acct receivable for 2014 Convention	$500.00	
Total LSR Net Worth	**$34,116.23**	
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth		
Funds Held For Division 1 $3,336.50		
Funds Held For Division 3 $1,208.30		
Funds Held For Division 4 $3,501.10		
Funds Held For Zahn Donation $400.00*		

* These funds are restricted and will become unrestricted at $200.00 per year in April to comply with terms of donation.
** Loans are not included in disbursements.

Secretary's Report

For Second Fiscal Quarter of 2012/2013

by Tom Browning, MMR

At the beginning of January 2013 the membership was 1,023 and at the end of March 2013 the membership was 1,120. Please welcome our new members listed below and notated by Division number:

January 2013

Gary Cox, Arlington, TX - 1
Michael Reynolds, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Shana Whitehead, Weatherford, TX - 1
Ryan Zamarron, Weatherford, TX - 1
Eric Baar, Irving, TX - 3
James Norgard, Allen, TX - 3
Jan Batson, Harker Heights, TX - 4
George Pemberton, Taylor, TX - 4
Joseph Price, Shallowater, TX - 5
Edward Stanley, Atlanta, TX - 7
Mark Denkowski, Richmond, TX - 8
Winton Lindsay, Houston, TX - 8

February 2013

Davis Ball, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Jonathan Ball, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Joy Ball, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Jose Cardenas, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Clarence Carson, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Paul Cleveland, Bedford, TX - 1
John Cunningham, Azle, TX - 1
Derek Czarny, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Anthony Dennett, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Lee Farmer, Hurst, TX - 1
Linda Farmer, Hurst, TX - 1
Dean Ferris, Decatur, TX - 1
Frank Gisiner, Keller, TX - 1
Judy Gisiner, Keller, TX - 1
John Grabner, Denton, TX - 1
Steven Gribin, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Mark Hilburn, Little Elm, TX - 1
William Hinners, Roanoke, TX - 1
Steven Hollingsworth, Little Elm, TX - 1
John Isham, Alvarado, TX - 1
Gail Jackson, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Clark Jones, Azle, TX - 1
Wayne Klopfenstein, Arlington, TX - 1
Henry Lampe, Southlake, TX - 1
William Longo, The Colony, TX - 1
David Lunsford, White Settlement, TX - 1
Marty McCoy, Haslet, TX - 1
Eugene, McKenzie, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Charles Mitchell, Arlington, TX - 1
Anthony Paolucci, Benbrook, TX - 1
Mike Pettigrew, Weatherford, TX - 1
Jeff Raimer, Grapevine, TX - 1
Ed Romanowski, Roanoke, TX -1
Rhonda Rountree, Bedford, TX - 1
Gary Rush, Lewisville, TX - 1
Danny Smith, Arlington, TX - 1
David Spencer, Wichita Falls, TX - 1
Chris Streib, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Don Waters, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Bob Williams, Joshia, TX - 1
Woody Woodgate, Grapevine, TX - 1
Anthony Cuccia, New Orleans, LA - 2
David Perkins, Zachery, LA - 2
Gerard Ruth, Baton Rouge, LA - 2
Barry Ardolf, Grand Prairie, TX - 3
Tracy Barenz, McKinney, TX -3
Gregg Burke, Richardson, TX - 3
David Catlin, Heath, TX - 3
Joel Chambers, Dallas, TX - 3
Scott Crichton, Dallas, TX - 3
Noble Fortson, Coppell, TX - 3
Harold Hall, Quinlian, TX - 3
Richard Hare, Rowlett, TX - 3
Sherry Henson, Edgewood, TX - 3
Bill Hunter, Richardson, TX - 3
Odis Johnson, Dallas, TX - 3
Ron Jordon, Dallas, TX - 3
Wayne Kelly, Nevada, TX - 3
Gregory Ligon, Plano, TX - 3
Carol Littrell, Irisco, TX - 3
Charles Lockhart, Sunnyvale, TX - 3
Thomas Lytte, Carrollton, TX - 3
Darren McCaulley, Plano, TX - 3
Bert McFerrin, Irving, TX - 3
Hayden Meredith, Irving, TX - 3
Jeff Parilla, Frisco, TX - 3
Tom Petrick, McKinney, TX - 3
Joseph Predaina, Mineola, TX - 3
Nancy Predaina, Mineola, TX - 3
Bill Price, Frisco, TX - 3
Al Ratley, Frisco, TX - 3
Liz Schwindt, Ennis, TX - 3
Joe Selinsky, Frisco, TX - 3
Johnie Stafford, McKinney, TX - 3
Kevin Valentine, McKinney, TX - 3
Bill Ward, Dallas, TX - 3
Michael Williamson, Rowlett, TX - 3
David Young, Mesquite, TX - 3
Doug Blair, La Grange, TX - 4
Elizabeth Blair, La Grange, TX - 4
Bob Cozby, Waco, TX - 4
Hugh Lenox, Woodway, TX - 4
Tom Eadie, Alpine, TX - 5
Gary Gwyn, Amarillo, TX - 5
R J Casares, San Antonio, TX - 6
John Setar, San Antonio, TX - 6
Frank Andrews, Shreveport, LA - 7
Paul Hoh, Mt Pleasant, TX - 7
Robert Raley, Texarkana, TX - 7
Steve Young, Marshall, TX - 7
Brian Heil, Houston, TX - 8
Don Menard, Kingwood, TX - 8
Urs Rathgeb, Sugar Land, TX - 8

March 2013

Joyce Brein, Denton, TX - 1
Mark Foster, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Gayle Baar, Irving, TX - 3
Kevin Buchanan, Dallas, TX - 3
Alex Buchanan, Dallas, TX - 3
Dalton McGowan, Dallas, TX - 3
Brenda Sanders, West Tawakoni, TX - 3
Terry Nathan, Austin, TX - 4
Jerry Wilson, Kyle, TX - 4
Family Mamlok, Lubbock, TX - 5
Billy Monroe, Linden, TX - 7
Niell Gorman, Houston, TX - 8
Paul, Hillman, Plantersville, TX - 8

News

Robert 'Bob' Dannenbrink

Houston lost a dedicated model railroader when Robert W. Dannenbrink died Thursday, March 14th at the age of 90. He was a husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather and great grandfather in addition to being a generous and enthusiastic long time model railroader in Houston.

Bob served his country during World War II in the Pacific Theater as a member of the U.S. Navy. Afterwards, he was a professional chemical engineer and longtime member of the First United Methodist Church in Houston and the Adelphi Sunday School Class.

In addition to being model railroader, Bob enjoyed traveling, listening to music and attending sporting events. A memorial service was held March 21st. The family asks that in lieu of flowers that contributions be made in Bob's name to 1st Choice Ministries of the First United Methodists Church or a charity of your choice.

Shawn Levy

We, and model railroading and rail-fanning in general, have suffered the loss of a colleague. Shawn Levy passed away last month. Shawn was a member of the Mid-South Model Railroad Club and the KCS historical Society. Along with model and operating skills, Shawn was an exceptional railroad photographer.

Search the web for "Shawn Levy, Amite LA" to view some of his fantastic prototype photos. We shall all miss him greatly.

In memory, Shawn Levy, 1962-2013

Directors' Reports

Cowcatcher Division 1
by Chris Atkins
chris@railroadermodelers.com
214.222.1285
cowcatcherdivision.com

Hi all. I hope you all are having a productive spring. As I write this, we are hard at work on the 2013 LSR Convention in Irving this summer. This year's convention has a lot of very exciting activities planned. Besides the usual clinics and contest we have several unique events featured. First, we will have an exclusive sneak peak of the new Museum of the American Railroad in Frisco. Their new facility is going to be amazing. No more space constraints like they had at Fair Park.

Also, because the theme is operations, we will have more operating sessions than any LSR convention has ever had in the past - including actual live steam operations at **Jack Haskel's** in Forney. If you've never operated live steam before with a 4 person crew, you will be in for a treat.

We have already procured over $5,000 in raffle prizes for this year's convention. These items include several brass locomotives, Lionel Train sets, some first run models from Blackstone and Soundtraxx and some passes to a couple different tourist railroads - including a couple cab rides. But it's early, and we're not done gathering prizes. We hope to have at least $10,000 worth the raffle prizes to give away by the time the convention starts.

Hopefully you heard about our great prototype tours to UP's Davison Yard and BNSF. Unfortunately, these seem to have been so popular that they sold out very fast. Keeps checking the website for cancellations or additional capacity. http://lonestarexpress2013.com

We are still looking for volunteers for the convention. The convention is 100% member organized by model railroaders just like you. If you think you will have a couple spare hours during all the excitement, please contact **Denny Bullard** at dennybull@aol.com and offer to help sit at the registration or raffle table or some such thing.

Many of you are members of or otherwise involved with the Lockheed-Martin Recreation Association club in Ft. Worth and know about the loss of their space. This is very sad news for our community. The LMRA club has not only been gracious in donating meeting space for our division meetings, but their railroad is first rate and a high target to aim to hit for anyone building their own layout. Also, their show in October is easily one of my favorites and will be greatly missed. Hopefully something good will come of their predicament.

Let me know if you have any questions about the convention: chris@railroadmodelers.com

Bayou Division 2

by Rod Fredericks
fredericks.rod@gmail.com
225-939-0187

Activities continue to brisk in the Bayou Division. Along with the bi-monthly operating sessions at the Mid-South Model Railroad Club here in Baton Rouge, operating session have been run on **Art Houston's** fine layout in Houma, and other layouts in the area. The **Mid-South** sessions are held on the first Saturday of each odd-numbered month. We have to limit the number to 22 operators (including club members).

If you are interested in attending one of these afternoon sessions drop our club's operations chairman, Art Houston, an email (ahouston3@charter.net) to get on the list. For other information about the club and layout, our Website is www.midsouthmodelrrclub.com/. Additionally, the **Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroad** in Jackson LA, recently held an open house.

A few weeks ago, along with **Jim Loftland** (Baton Rouge), **Dr. Kahm** (Shreveport) and **Art Houston** (Houma), the **Mid-South** hosted the Louisiana Rail Run. Along with a number of local model railroaders, some twenty model railroaders from Texas, Arkansas and elsewhere descended on Louisiana for four days of operations, layout visits and fine Creole dining. And of course, touring the bayou country on the way to and from Art Houston's layout. All and all, it was a hectic, but very enjoyable weekend of model railroading and fellowship with friends new and old alike.

Upgrades to the Mid-South layout continue at a brisk pace. A new industrial area was added to the layout for Louisiana Rail Run and Mid-South's bi-monthly session last weekend, and work has begun on the sixth and seventh nodes (of a total of eight). Finally, there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel.

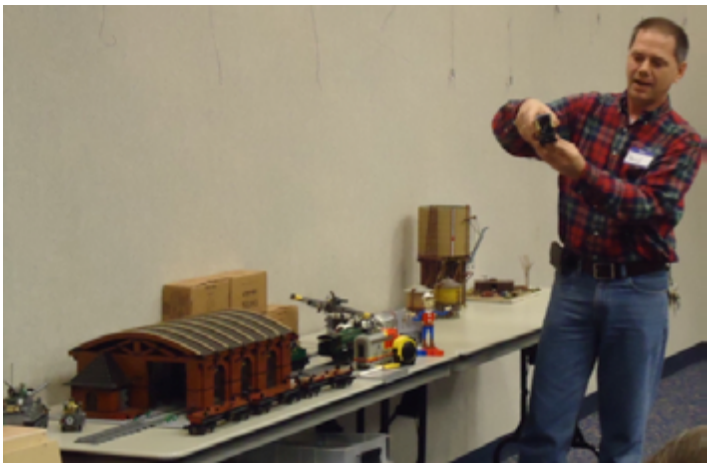
On a personal note, work continues on my home layout. The upper deck is operating with nearly all of the rockwork done and much of the scenery underway. How astonishing it is that only five square feet of layout can consume over 200 trees when one is modeling the Colorado high country.

North East Texas Division 3

by Jerry Hoverson, MMR
jhoverson@tx.rr.com
972.540.5315

I hope the Tax Fairy was good to everyone!

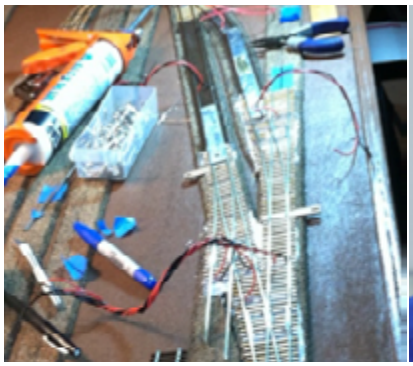
We're still meeting on the 2nd Saturday of the month and our primary location is the South Branch of the Library located at 4845 Broadway Blvd. in Garland. However, watch the meeting notifications closely, now that spring and summer are here the libraries get booked up with actual library functions and we sometimes have to move to a different branch. Case in point, April and May will be at the central branch in downtown Garland where we used to meet. Hey, the use of the space is free and beggars can't be choosers.



David Hawkins and LEGO trains

Attendance at our meetings is really great, in February we had 86 and 74 in March. A good portion of those are the new members we've had join us since the Worlds Greatest Hobby Show and the Dallas Area Train Show. We held our annual Model Railroading 101 clinics in both February and March so that everyone would have a chance to visit more than one of the 8 clinics we had going on at the same time.

One of our new members, **David Hawkins**, brought some interesting items for Show-n-Tell. David enjoys a completely different side of our hobby and was gracious enough to share with us. Everyone was fascinated and enjoyed his work using LEGOs!



Modular layout clinic presented by Don Winn

In addition to MR-101, **Don Winn** presented a clinic on building modular layouts, and he brought as segment of the modules he's building for the operations layout room at the Lone Star Express 2013 convention. Many, many thanks to all the crew that helped out and led their clinics.

Also, at the March meeting we held a very informative clinic on exactly what goes on at our conventions and **Chris Atkins**, the Div 1 director and the convention registrar, came to the meeting, and we registered over 15 convention goers on the spot! Thank you all for registering and trust me, you will have a GREAT time.

Larry Swigert (middle) is presented his Civil Engineering Achievement Award

One last bit of news, **Larry Swigert** is inching closer and closer to getting his MMR! At our April meeting we presented him with a Merit Award for his 3 pieces of scratch built trackwork that qualified him his Civil Engineer Achievement Award. The detail was superb and the trackwork ran smoother than I've ever seen anyone's trackwork run. He earned a total of 122 of 125 points!

Take care all and keep "working on the railroad" but most of all get involved with the division and have some railroading FUN!

Cen-Tex Division 4

by Jack Merkel
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We held a Division meeting on Saturday Feb 9 at the Round Rock Library. **Joe Dale Morris** presented a clinic titled "The Texas and New Orleans RR in Transition". Joe Dale showed well over a hundred pictures of the T&NO and its equipment. Many of these pictures were taken by his father and by Joe Dale himself covering Texas and Louisiana. We had our show and tell table with several items shown. After the social time, we picked the winners of the gift certificates for Kings Hobby Shop with our Deal or Duds program. After the meeting, we toured **Rudy Pirovitz's** Eastview, Medford and Pacific RR. Rudy has scratch built many excellent structures. Several of them are illuminated.

Our next Division meeting will be on Saturday May 25 at the Round Rock Library beginning at 10:15 am. Fred Price will present a clinic titled "Implementing Electronic Control of a layout – a beginners guide". We will have our normal show and tell table, social time and Deal or Duds session. After the meeting, we will tour **Steve Nelson's** Sedalia Division of the MKT RR and **Jim Zwernemann's** O scale T&NO/MKT RR built to Proto 48 standards. The library is located at 216 E. Main St. in Round Rock. On I-35, exit at RR 620 (Exit 252B) and proceed East on RR 620 for a few blocks to the intersection with Main St. and continue East on Main St. for another block and half to the library.

A Great Northern yard goat moves through a yard on Rudy Pirovitz's railroad during a layout tour for a Division 4 meeting.

We do all communications about our Division 4 meetings via email. If you are not receiving emails about our Division meetings, that means I do not have a valid email address for you. Please send your email address to Elmermerk@aol.com

Pool, Beer and Lunch are all available on Rudy Pirovitz's layout.

On the operating front, the CTC system for **David Barrow's** Santa Fe RR is now in operation. **Chuck Ellis** has held an operating session which featured his expanded railroad, new NCE DCC system and telephone system. Edmar Wienskoski has designed and built his own radio throttles with some interesting features for his railroad. **Pete Guy, David Nicastro** and I have routine operating sessions.

We have begun work on the 2014 LSR Convention which will be held in Round Rock. We have formed a committee, signed a contract with the hotel, decided on a convention name and logo, obtained a banquet speaker and begun work on the web site.

I hope to see many of you at the Lone Star Express Convention in Dallas beginning May 29. I am sure **Marc LaChey** and his crew have planned a great convention with lots of activities in store for us. Be sure to visit their website - lonestarexpress2013.com - for details.

Mike Barrett and Tom Pearson coordinate for a drop by a piggyback train in the Lower Yard in Lubbock during a regular operating session at David Barrow's Cat Mountain & Santa Fe railroad.

Until next time, try an operating session. You will like it! First 2 pics are from Rudy Pirovitz's RR during his layout tour at last Division 4 meeting and the third from David Barrow op session with **Tom Pearson** and **Mike Barrett** switching the pig train at Lubbock Lower Yard.

Division 5

by Dave Lamberts
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The Lubbock Model Railroad Association (LMRA) has been discussing the various aspects of liability exposure regarding our club meetings.

Currently, we carry nothing. We have also discussed the possibility of becoming and LLC to protect the Board of Directors from a law suit.

It is difficult to get a quote from regular insurance salesmen because our situation is so unusual (we meet once a month and really don't do anything). This has led to the question of whether or not the church in which we meet has a blanket liability policy.

If a club is composed of 100% NMRA members, then the blanket liability policy of the NMRA would apply, but such is not the case with the LMRA.

This topic might be one that could be discussed at our summer meeting.

Division 6

by Tom Crosthwait
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Since the majority of the model railroad activities in our area take place around the various clubs' activities, the biggest news coming out of Division 6 is that Live Oak, Texas has sold the property and building that is the Live Oak Civic Center. SAMRA's Summer Show on Saturday and Sunday, July27 & 28, 2013, will be the last event to take place at this venue.

The report from the city is that the property will create more in tax revenue as a business than the city realized as an event rental property. This leaves both the Alamo Model Railroad Engineers and San Antonio Model Railroad Association without a home for their model railroad jamborees. Both organizations are actively seeking other venues of 30,000 square feet or more to hold their annual and bi-annual events. The shows are the main money making activities for both clubs.

The SAMRA Model Railroad Jamboree held in late January of 2013 was the 20th year of being located at the Live Oak Civic Center. The large meeting facility will be missed for the annual model railroad events that hosted sales vendors and modular groups from the San Antonio area, Corpus Christi, Austin, Temple and Houston. Both AMRE and SAMRA are searching for another site in northeast San Antonio, but to date no building of Live Oak Civic Center size has become available.

It has been almost a year now since my very good friend and extreme model railroad enthusiast, **Fred Bock**, passed away. I still cannot get into my railroad room to work or play. I continue to gather for dispersal all of Fred's vast collection of model railroad items. I was trying to think of a better word than "stuff," but "stuff" is what we all have.

Thanks to **John Lowrance** in helping with the research of all the brass locomotives and rolling stock and all the other hours spent cleaning and cataloguing everything from "G" scale to "N" scale.

Hopefully in another six months I will finally have the collection down to a manageable amount and can once again resume activities other than packing and unpacking boxes for train show weekends.

Division 7

by Don Kimmell
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Membership in the Division has held steady, ranging from as low as 26 to as high as 30 individuals, plus the one club in Alexandria.

Recruiting is an ongoing affair, usually at the few train show that occur in the divisional boundaries. I have also co-shared a table with the KCS' Historical Society at a couple of "train" affairs-such as the opening of the Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society's new museum here in Shreveport. The most active area in the division is down in Alexandria, with their Children's Museum and their Treehouse Project. This is a long-term affair, an investment in the future of our hobby.

I have given three presentations to the Boy Scouts in the past 6 months, one here in Shreveport, one in Gibbsland/ Arcadia and one in Tullulah-actually we had the presentation in Vicksburg, but the Troop was from eastern Louisiana.

We attempted to do a couple of clinics, but seeing as there were only 2 members, plus myself, I cannot consider them a division function.

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Leslie Bodak
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The San Jacinto Club's Greater Houston Train Show was held at the Stafford Center this past February. There was a good turn out and there were some really great models in the contest room. Several clinics were also held and everyone had a great time.

Houston Area Live Steamers (HALS) have begun their public run days. They are held on the 3rd Saturday of the month from March through November at Zube Park. This is a wonderful time to fellowship and meet new people and a great way to introduce them to our hobby.

The annual Division 8 Chili Cookoff will be held on April 20 at the Alvin Depot. This is always a great time and also a wonderful opportunity for railfan enthusiasts who love chasing trains!

Division 8 will be holding clinics from May through September. We will be meeting at Bayland Park and our first clinic will be May 11 at 10:00 a.m. Ray Byer will be presenting locomotive tune-ups.

The KCS Historical Society annual meeting with be in Rosenberg on June 7 and 8. The society has and an exciting schedule planned and this should be a lot of fun.

The Holiday Express constructed on a Kansas City Southern flatcar.

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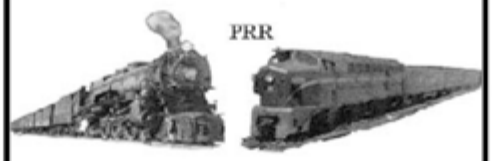

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August 2013

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